

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NASSAU 1967

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SUBJ: CABINET SHUFFLE

REF: NASSAU 1943

BEGIN SUMMARY: ONE WEEK AFTER THE HANNA-FRANCIS SQUABBLE ON CASINO GAMBLING, GOVERNMENT HAS ANNOUNCED A CABINET RESHUFFLE. ALFRED MAYCOCK REPLACES FRANCIS AS MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT AND FRANCIS BECOMES CHAIRMAN OF THE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION. AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES BECOMES A SEPARATE MINISTRY, HEADED BY ANTHONY ROBERTS. DARRELL ROLLE REPLACES ROBERTS AT HOME AFFAIRS AND GEORGE SMITH REPLACES ROLLE AT TRANSPORT. EMBASSY ATTACHES NO GREAT SIGNIFICANCE TO THESE CHANGES, BUT NOTES THAT THEY INDICATE THE ADVANCEMENT OF YOUNG BLOOD IN THE PERSONS OF ROLLE AND SMITH, WHO ARE ALSO STAUNCH PINDLING MEN. END SUMMARY.

1. AS REPORTED REFEL, ON DEC 12 DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER HANNA AND HIS TRADITIONALY DEVELOPMENT MINISTER FRANCIS GOT INTO A VERBAL WRANGLE IN THE OUSE OF ASSEMBLY OVER THE PROPOSED GOVERNMENT AKE-OVER OF CASINO GAMBLING. FRANCIS SCRIBBLED A NOTE TO PM PINDLING AND WALKED OUT OF THE CHAMBER. EMBASSY LEARNED THAT NEXT MORNING FRANCIS CLEANED OUT HIS DESK AT DEVELOPMENT AND LEFT FOR MIAMI. GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT CON-
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FIRM THAT HE HAD RESIGNED OR THAT HIS RESIGNATION HAD BEEN

ACCEPTED. ON DEC 19 FRANCIS ENTERED THE HOUSE AND TOOK A PLACE ON THE BACK BENCHES. DURING THE SESSION HE APOLOGIZED TO THE HOUSE FOR THE DEC 11 ARGUMENT BUT ANNOUNCED HE WOULD NOT ALTER HIS INFLEXIBLE STAND ON GAMBLING.

2. THE EVENING OF DEC 19 GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED A CABINET RESHUFFLE. FRANCIS' RESIGNATION HAS BEEN ACCEPTED AND HE WILL MOVE DOWN TO CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION,

A SUB-CABINET POSITION FROM WHICH HE WILL REPORT TO THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT. THE NEW MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT IS HIS FORMER SUBORDINATE, ALFRED MAYCOCK, WHO UNTIL YESTERDAY WAS CHAIRMAN OF THE DEVELOPMENT CORP. COMMENT: THIS EXCHANGE OF POSITIONS IS NO DOUBT GALLING TO FRANCIS. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE WILL BE FREE AS CHAIRMAN OF THE D.C. TO INDULGE HIS INTEREST IN NATIONAL PLANNING SCHEMES. MAYCOCK IS A PLP SALWART OF RATHER BENIGN NATURE WHO WILL PROBABLY PRESENT A BETTER IMAGE TO BUSINESSMEN AND INVESTORS THAN THE PRICKLY FRANCIS DID.

3. UNTIL LAST SPRING, AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES WAS A SEPARATE MINISTER UNDER ANTHONY ROBERTS. NOW IT IS AGAIN. ROBERTS WILL PROBABLY BE HAPPIER IN HIS NEW-OLD POST THAN AT HOME AFFAIRS. BREAKING AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES OUT FROM DEVELOPMENT IS IN LARGE PART GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO CHARGES THAT I WAS PAYING SUFFICIENT ATTENTION TO THAT AREA. ROBERTS' REPLACEMENT AT HOME AFFAIRS IS DARRELL ROLLE, THE BRIGHT THIRTY-YEAR-OLD FORMER MINISTER OF TRANSPORT WHO CONTINUES HIS RISE IN GOVERNMENT RANKS BY A COMBINATION OF INTELLIGENCE, HARD WORK, AND DISCRETION. THERE ARE REPORTS, UNCONFIRMED AS YET, THAT ROLLE'S RESPONSIBILITIES WILL INCLUDE IMMIGRATION. ROLLE WILL BE REPLACED AT TRANSPORT BY GEORGE SMITH WHOSE PERIOD IN THE WILDERNESS WAS ONLY A MATTER OF THREE WEEKS. SMITH RECENTLY RESIGNED AS THE PRIME MINISTER'S PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY, REPORTEDLY UNDER PRESSURE. THE STORY WAS THAT SMITH WAS DISLIKED BY HANNA, FRANCIS AND OTHERS IN THE CABINET AS A "WISE GUY" WHO WAS OVERLY AMBITIOUS. SMITH HAS BEEN REGARDED AS A PROTEGE OF PINDLING, BUT APPARENTLY THE LATTER CONSIDERED THAT HE HAD BECOME A LIABILITY. SMITH ENTERED PRIVATE BUSINESS UPON HIS RESIGNATION, AND IN HIS CONFIDENTIAL

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RECENT APPEARANCES IN THE HOUSE MADE SEVERAL ALMOST FLIPPANT STATEMENTS THAT SUGGESTED HE AND THE CABINET WERE ON THE OUTS.

4. COMMENT: THE ONLY SURPRISE IN THIS SHUFFLE, WHICH SEEMS TO BE AN ANNUAL EVENT, IS THE REAPPEARANCE OF SMITH. HIS RETURN TO FAVOR PROBABLY INDICATES SOME KOWTOWING ON HIS PART, SOME LACK OF POTENTIAL MINISTERIAL MATERIAL IN PLP RANKS, AND THE PM'S DESIRE TO HAVE AS MANY ALLIES AS POSSIBLE

IN THE CABINET. BOTH ROLLE AND SMITH ARE YOUNG, SMITH ES-
PECIALLY POPULAR WITH YOUNG PLP SUPPORTERS, AND THEIR ADVANCE-
MENT MAY BE INTENDED TO SIGNAL THE INFUSION OF YOUNG BLOOD
INTO THE HIGHER GOVERNMENT CIRCLES.
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